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## General

Venezuela is located in Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, between Colombia and Guyana.

The climate is tropical, hot and humid, becoming more moderate in the highlands.

The terrain contains the lowlands of the Maracaibo and the highlands just to the E.

The central part of the coast is dominated by two sections of the coastal mountain range and the E third of the coast is low-lying areas in the delta of the Orinoco.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect.  
See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the bolivar, consisting of 100 centimos.

## Government

Venezuela is a republic. The capital is Caracas.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Jan. 6, Epiphany; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; April 19, Declaration of Independence; May 1, Labor Day; Ascension Day; June 24, Battle of Carabobo; July 5, Independence Day; July 24, Bolivar's Birthday; Oct. 12, Columbus; Nov. 1, All Saints' Day; Dec. 24, Christmas Eve; and Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

## Industries

The main industries include petroleum, iron ore mining, construction materials, food processing, textiles, steel, aluminum, and motor vehicles assembly.

## Languages

Spanish is the official language.

## Regulations

In Venezuelan territorial waters, the Venezuelan flag must be displayed continuously. At night, on demand, the name of the vessel must be signaled by Morse lamp.

Petroleum or other oils, must not be discharged overboard into the territorial waters surrounding the Venezuelan coasts.

Vessels are not permitted, by Venezuelan authorities, to anchor within territorial waters except in ports and places usually used for commerce, or under stress of weather.

There are strict dress regulations in force in Venezuelan ports.

Accommodation is to be provided to the same standard as ships' officers for Customs guards on board vessels.

**Time Zone**

The Time Zone description is QUEBEC (+4).

**U.S. Embassy**

The U.S. Embassy is situated in Calle F con Calle Suapure, Colinas de Valle Arriba, Caracas 1060.

The mailing address is P.O. Box 62291, Caracas 1060-A; APO AA 34037.